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REPORT NO.

CD NO. 50X1

DATE DISTR. // May 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

50X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION
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2.

this area is level, averaging 10 meters above sea level, with no high points whatever, and is comprised of large wooded areas, swamps and marshland, and some farmland. The area was sparsely populated and along the shore of Parnu Gulf the livelihood of the people was fishing, while inland they either had small farms or worked in the forests cutting lumber. The City of Parnu was a resort town primarily, although there was a large automobile factory there and it was a shipping center for lumber as well. The only other industries in the area were an eel factory on the southeast shore and a factory at Moisakula where seals were processed; the hides for fur and the fat for oil and lard. At Sindi there was a textile factory.

DRAINAGE

3. The shoreline of Parnu Gulf was sandy with some large stones and rocks so that aside from the port itself, only small fishing craft could come in to the shore. Sand dunes covered with pine trees (averaging about 10 meters above sea level) lined the shore, behind which were the marshlands, known as the "Big Swamp". These were covered with peat to a depth of over four meters. The water did not drain away from the surface and therefore collected in the low areas causing the marshy conditions. There were many canals and drainage ditches in this area, located for the most part near the forests to take the water away from these sections.

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4. Parnu River was the only navigable river in this area and was used for shipping as well as for floating lumber down to the Gulf. The other rivers and streams flowed near the surface, were very shallow and could be easily crossed on foot. Most had mud or sand bottoms with small stones in some places, but had no islands or sand bars. All streams and rivers had water in them throughout the year and it was perfectly safe to drink except that it had a very swampy taste. The current was approximately one meter per second. There were many bridges in this area and almost without exception they were made of wood.
5. There were no lakes in this area.

VEGETATION

6. Vegetation consisted of swamps and marshland, forests and some cultivated areas.
7. While the average was 400 trees to one hectare of land, this area had an average of only 200. The forests were for the most part young as during World War I the area was almost completely denuded of trees. The forests consisted of pine, fir and birch, the first two remaining green the year 'round. The forests were not dense and you could walk through them at any point. Average height of the trees was 20 meters with the first branches starting about three meters from the ground. While it would be possible to hide in the young fir forests, detection would not be difficult.
8. While the grass on the swamps was extremely dense, it was not high, averaging perhaps 20 centimeters. On the edges of the swamps there were very dense clusters of low willow bushes which made it extremely difficult if not impossible to cross them, particularly during the rainy season. One could hide very successfully in the brush on the edge of the swamps and as the area was so sparsely populated the possibility of remaining hidden was excellent.

AGRICULTURE

9. This was not primarily an agricultural area as the majority of the people either fished for a living or worked in the forests. The land was very poor and the major crops were cucumbers and onions. Each farmer might have a few cows, one or two pigs and a few chickens, ducks and geese. Due to the extensive swampy conditions, this area had very little agricultural potential.
10. Some pastures were surrounded with wooden fences, but there were no stone walls in this area.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

11. Due to the area's location on the Parnu Gulf the weather here was somewhat milder than inland, averaging about 40°C in summer and -20°C in winter. Summer extended from the end of June or early July until the middle of September. The first frost usually appeared in the early part of October and the snow began about the first of December remaining until the end of March or early April. As is common in most areas bordering salt water, there was less snow than inland, but just as much ice which reached a thickness of one half to three quarters of a meter. The Gulf itself was completely frozen over during the winter and closed to shipping.
12. The prevailing winds came from the southwest and were stronger during the

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winter than at other times of the year. There was not much fog or mist, except occasionally in the early morning. The heaviest rain fell during October and November with lighter rain during April and May, and there was no particular season when there was no rain at all.

TRANSPORTATION

- 13. The only first class road in the area was the one running from Parnu south into Latvia. It was a hard gravel road and well maintained for the most part although it was closed to traffic in the winter due to lack of funds and equipment to keep it open. All other roads in the area were confined to local traffic and were likewise closed during the winter. Horse-drawn sleighs provided transportation for the local population at this time.
- 14. The railroad, which ran from Parnu north to Tallinn and south to Latvia, was single track, narrow gauge. There were perhaps two passenger trains and three or four freight trains in each direction per day. As the railroad was the main means of transportation it was kept in excellent repair and the roadbeds were never flooded out.
- 15. There were no airfields in the area.

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723.5	25M
621.513	25M
623.442	25M
754.22	25M
755.211	25M
755.22	25M
621.42	25M

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